

Kiel, 03/05/2020

## “The children will soon be taking over the playgrounds in Kiel”

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you will already have heard, the **playgrounds are opening**. We are so pleased to be able to reduce the strain on you at the moment and to provide your children with somewhere to run around, climb, dig in the sand and much more. Your children have had to wait for this for several weeks.

The State Government is now allowing playgrounds to be opened as from 4 May as a result of the regulations decreed on 2 May 2020, if a corresponding hygiene concept is implemented. Our staff are working hard to meet these specifications as quickly as possible to protect you and your children. The signs prescribed by the State Government will provide you with information about the hygiene rules. These will be put up by every playground. The barrier tape will then be taken down and the playgrounds will be open! We **expect** this to be done by **Thursday at the latest**.

Some people are doubtful that it will not be possible to adhere to social distancing with children below school age. However, virologists deem it sensible to move activities outside wherever feasible. The risk of infection via breath is lower when playing outside in the fresh air, compared to being inside a closed room.

**Hygiene measures and social distancing regulations** must be adhered to on the playgrounds. Please prepare to adjust to the following:

- **Children may only play on the playground when accompanied by an adult.**
- **A maximum number of users will be displayed for every playground** on a notice board. Adult supervisors are responsible for ensuring that this number is not exceeded. We ask that only one adult accompanies the child or children, where feasible, so that as many children as possible can use the playground.
- In general, the **normal distancing regulations of 1.5 m – 2 m apply**.
- **Children** who are not in regular contact with each other (like siblings, children who are cared for together) **should not play in groups** wherever possible. Please observe social distancing regulations when using the equipment and seating.
- **Adults or adolescents should not congregate in groups on the playground.**
- **Children and adults with respiratory diseases must not enter the playground.**

The **play areas will be regularly inspected, and where necessary, cleaned and maintained**. If you notice any soiling, please call us using the number 901-3125.

We recommend carrying **disinfectant** with you, so that you can disinfect your child's hands or objects you take to the playground, depending on the situation.

The much-discussed **tracing app** is not yet available. We therefore recommend getting together with other families that you are friends with and letting the children play on the playground, so that contacts can be traced if required.

We will conduct **spontaneous checks** in order to protect all of our big and small visitors and to prevent new outbreaks of infection. If the rules are not adhered to, we will have to close the playgrounds again, because we cannot monitor all of the city's 160 playgrounds at the same time.

There are also several **private playgrounds** in Kiel, owned by housing associations, for example. They also need to set up their conditions first, as well. It may be the case that these playgrounds open later.

**We are mainly relying on your responsibility to adhere to the rules.** I am very optimistic that everyone will keep to the rules. We are all well aware what a new round of living without playgrounds would mean. We have all managed together so far, we need to stick at it!

The playground your children use is **too full**? Then why not use the parks, greens and beaches in and around our city, to prevent large groups from congregating at the playgrounds? These areas also offer children great places to play.

Do you need some more ideas? Have a look at our **Kiel Family App**, which contains lots of **handy tips**: #stayathome - #allesstehtkopf - #survivalkit.

Enjoy your time at the playground and at the other lovely places in and around Kiel! I wish you and your loved ones all the best for now and for the next few weeks.

Yours most faithfully,



Renate Treutel